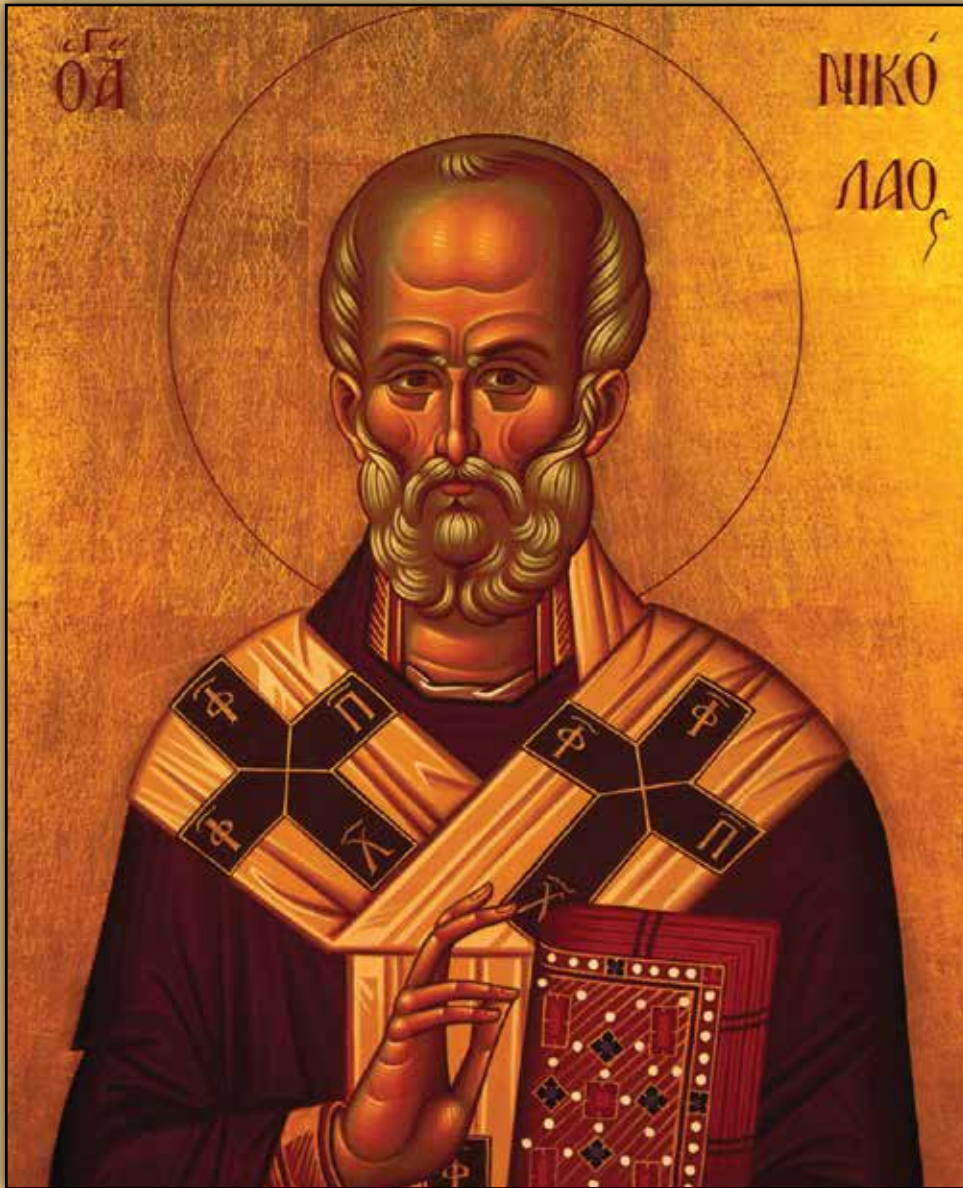


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas of Myra -- December 6th

December 6, 2020: 27th Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Eph. 6: 10-17		Gospel: Lk. 17: 12-19
Mon., Dec. 7	9:00	+ Johnathan Sawko (Pat, Cathy & Patrick Marcinko)
Tues., Dec. 8	9:00	+ Nicholas Zinsky (Dorothy Zinsky)
Wed., Dec. 9	Maternity of the Holy Anna	
	9:00	+ Myroslaw Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
Thurs. Dec. 10	9:00	+ Matthew Beckage (John & Mary Ann Turko)
Fri., Dec. 11	9:00	+ Anna Chaykosky (Shirley Romanovitch)
Sat., Dec. 12	No Morning Divine Liturgy.	
	2:00	Confessions.
	4:00	+ Michael & Rose (Carol)
Sun., Dec. 13	10:00	For Our Parishioners

+ FATHER JOHN FIELDS



Your Excellencies,
Dear Fathers, Sisters and
Brothers,

I regret to inform
our priests, religious,
and faithful that Father
John Fields has passed
away in his home. Cause
of death is yet to be
determined.

Among the
numerous services that
Father John rendered to
the Church was ministry
as long-time pastor and,
in recent years, Religious

Education and Communications Director of our Archeparchy. Father John had many assignments in different parishes and various capacities throughout our Archeparchy.

A lawyer by first profession, Father John had a bright and inquisitive mind. He was a builder of churches, an avid conversationalist, a communicator. Animated, quick-witted, and with an incisive sense of humor Father John kept us alert. He loved to share news and was adept at doing so.

In our last conversation before

Thanksgiving Father John was in good spirits and seemingly improving in his health.

I express my heartfelt condolences to Father John's family and friends.

As Father John preached and professed, our hope is in the Lord and His Resurrection.

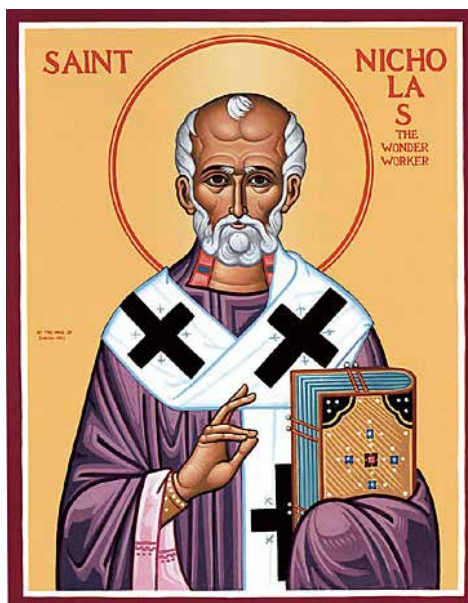
Let us remember him in our grateful prayers.

May his memory be eternal.

Вічна пам'ять!

+Borys

THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA, WONDERWORKER



St. Nicholas stands out in the Church as a “model of faith and an example of virtue.” Nicholas was Archbishop of Myra in Lycia in the fourth century. He is called the Wonder-worker. His greatness lies neither in theological works nor in writing. He is a personification of a shepherd, a defender, and an intercessor. For us, Nicholas is a man of faith. He shows us what humility is and teaches us the values of moderation and poverty. All generations have acknowledged him as a holy bishop.

St. Nicholas, called “of Bari”, was bishop of Myra in the fourth century.

The great veneration with which this saint has been honored for many ages and the number of altars and churches which have been everywhere dedicated in his memory are testimonials to his holiness and of the glory which he enjoys with God. He is said to have been born at Patara in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Myra, the capital, not far from the sea, was an episcopal see, and this church falling vacant, the holy Nicholas was chosen bishop, and in that station became famous by his extraordinary piety and zeal and many astonishing miracles.

The Greek histories of his life agree that he suffered imprisonment for the faith and made a glorious confession in the latter part of the persecution raised by Diocletian, and that he was present at the Council of Nicaea and there condemned Arianism. He died at Myra, and was buried in his cathedral.

The Icon of St. Nicholas brings him into our life. He is shown with his right hand raised in blessing and his left hand clasping a scroll. As bishop, he blesses his people in the name of Christ and brings the Word of Truth to them. The Icon encloses the image of Christ holding the Gospel Book on one side of the Saint, and the Mother of God holding the Bishop's omopho-

rian on the other side. This is an obvious reference to his choice as Bishop of Myra. It is common for events from the lives of the Saints to be shown in their icons. In a vision prior to his election as Bishop, Nicholas beheld Christ handing him the Book of Gospels, and the Mother of God placing the omophorion on his shoulders.

The celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, on December 6, is a holiday celebrated with much joy in Ukraine, where it is a traditional custom to visit and distribute gifts. Many Ukrainian communities continue this old tradition, which helps Ukrainian children remember that before Santa Claus there was a holy man called Nicholas.

Named the patron saint of children, Nicholas was the son of a wealthy bishop and shared his fortune with the poor. He was said to have secretly left bags of gold in the night for those who could not afford dowries for their daughters. Legend says that maidens need only pray to the patron saint and they will have good husbands in the future.

With St. Nicholas we stand in faith and worship, seeing him as a model for our Christian lives and a model for Christian leadership. We ask him to pray to Christ for us.

ON THE FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA

The U. S. Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy issued the following letter dated November 30, 2006:

To the Clergy, Sisters, and the Faithful of the Metropolitan Province of Philadelphia for Ukrainians:

As long as anyone can remember, we have celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the United States on December 8th as a Holy Day of Obligation. This was done so we may be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Latin Church as this title of the Mother of God is the patron of our great country. In accordance with the decree (1.4) of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church during the Synod of 1997 (September 14th - 20th), the holy days

of obligation were promulgated and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was not included as a day of obligation.

As the feast of the Conception of St. Anne is celebrated on December 9th in ALL of the Eastern Churches (Gregorian Calendar) and specifically in the Ukrainian Church, we, the undersigned, promulgate that the Feast of the Conception of St. Anne is to be celebrated on December 9th in the United States of America. This will enable our Church *sui iuris* to be of one accord in its celebration of the Liturgical life of our Church. This is to take effect immediately. Given on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) 2006.

+Stefan Soroka

+Robert M. Moskal +Richard S. Seminack +Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M.

ANDREW'S PENCE

The Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) has decided to hold a collection, called Andrew's Pence, to support faithful of UGCC abroad where there is no permanent ecclesiastical structure.

More than 100 years ago Ukrainians started to leave their native land in search of a better life, material welfare,

and freedom. Many settled on another continent, where church buildings of the UGCC are not everywhere, so that the faithful could not attend services in their native Church. Wishing to provide all faithful of the UGCC with spiritual care, the bishops call upon all to support the faithful of the UGCC abroad in prayer and financially, col-

lecting the so-called Andrew's Pence.

According to the Protocol of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of

Philadelphia, the "Andrew's Pence" collection is to be taken in all parishes each year in the month of December.

TIS THE SEASON FOR DECORATING ST. CYRIL'S CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS 2020

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas today (Sunday, December 6th) beginning at NOON. The past few years, our Church was decorated so beautifully with the extra Christmas trees and poinsettias

setting the mood for Christmas.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are asking parishioners to wear a mask as we proceed with this Church activity. We understand that not everyone is comfortable being in contact with others during this time. But, we are



asking for the men and women who can help, to show up today. If need be, the decorating will continue on Monday, Dec. 7th, after the morning Divine Liturgy.

We need someone specifically to help put the garland on the Iconostas and the columns of

the Altar. As the trees are set up, the garland is put upstairs on the Choir balcony, trees are "fluffed", the lights are all working, wreaths and lights are put on the windows, we will work together to make the Christmas Season 2020 at St. Cyril's memorable!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

For those who have ordered poinsettias, they will be available for pick-up MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

from 3:00 to 7:00 in the church hall on 207 River Street. Please remember to wear a mask and keep socially distant.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Orders for the Christmas Bake Sale must be received by Monday, December 7th. Order forms are available in the back of the church. You can, also, place an order by calling: Julie 570-357-6171, Michaelene 570-209-2026, or, Mary

Ann 570-489-4648. Pick-up of the orders will be on Monday, December 21st from 3:00 to 7:00 at the church hall on 207 River Street. Please help our parish by participating in this third phase of our fund raiser.

2021 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2021 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the

Church. The Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

COOKIE SALE

Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church 320 Vine St. Old Forge is holding their annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 19th from 10 am to 12 pm. All cookies will be sold on a preorder basis only. Cookie are homemade and include anise wedding, thumbprint, pepper cookies, chocolate chip, peanut butter kisses, nut rugalach,

linzer, fruitcakes and many many more. Cost is \$9 per pound. Preorders can be placed by calling Betty 570-457-9292 or Maria 570-457-8275. Preorders will be accepted until December 7th. Preorders will not be accepted after this date. All Covid 19 safety guidelines have been followed for this sale.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2020 is Team

#4: Ron Barkofsky and Joe Smagula.

Sunday Collection for Nov. 28 & 29, 2020:

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Parish financially in our weekly collections. If you are still staying at home due to the pandemic, and are able to send any amount, it would be a blessing.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three

daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.